

K A M T S C H A T K A. 85

which grows upon the Great River; but neither he nor I ever
 saw this in the flower: 5thly, *matista sladka trava**, or the
 sweet plant, is as useful in their oeconomy as the *saranne*;
 for the *Kamtshadales* use this not only as a confection in tarts
 and broths, but in all their superstitious ceremonies this is abso-
 lutely necessary. The *Russians* were no sooner settled there, than
 they found that brandy was to be distilled from it; and at
 present this is the only brandy that is publicly sold. The
 root of this herb is without yellowish, within, white; and
 of a bitter, spicy taste. The stem is fleshy, of three or four
 joints, and about a man's height. Its flower is a reddish green,
 with short white hairs, longest near the root. The leaves upon
 the stem nearest the root are five or six, and sometimes even ten:
 they grow upon thick, round, fleshy, green, rough stalks, marked
 with little red spots. Upon the main stem, at every joint, arises
 one such leaf, but without a stalk. The flowers are small
 and white, like fennel, or other herbs of that sort; and
 consist of five leaves, of which the innermost are largest, and the
 outward smallest. It has two ovaria upon every flower, upon
 short small necks; and round them are five white stamina with
 green points, which rise higher than the flower. The flowers,
 taken all together, resemble a plate; while the stalks which
 support the umbella are longest without, and in the middle
 shortest: stalks arise from every joint, upon which are
 flowers.

This plant abounds every where in *Kamtshatka*, and the inha-
 bitants gather and prepare it in this manner: they cut off the
 stalks of the leaves which grow nearest the root, and with a shell

* *Sphenodyctyon foliolis pinnatifidis*. Linn. Clif.

251 the sterility of the soil, operate also to prevent
263 the inhabitants from laying in a sufficient store of
439 winter provisions, which as they consist of fish are
exposed to the air to dry, and in a short time be-
come so rotten and maggotty, that but a small
quantity can be made serviceable for the consump-
tion of the people; the rest is retained for the
dogs. Salt is at present issued, but not in sufficient
quantities; were that article more liberally dis-
tributed, the people might in some years prepare
fish to last them several successive ones. From
the quantity now supplied by the king of the Sand-
wich islands, it is to be hoped that the first pro-
ductive season will be taken advantage of.

137 Of wild vegetables, some of which are mixed
262 with the bark of trees for the fare of the inhabit-
439 ants, there is an abundance in Kamtchatka, and
there is no doubt that greens, turnips, and radishes
might with a little trouble be every where pro-
duced. Wild berries and wild garlick abound; the
latter is exported to Okotsk and Yakutsk: this
plant is one of the finest antiscorbutics known, but
has a peculiarly offensive smell.

136 The principal riches of Kamtchatka may be said
to consist in the animals of the chase, of which
there are so prodigious a number, that there are
not sufficient inhabitants to take them. The most
valuable are foxes of various colours, a few sea
and more river otters, with an immense number of
sables. Bears, wolves, rein-deer and mountain-